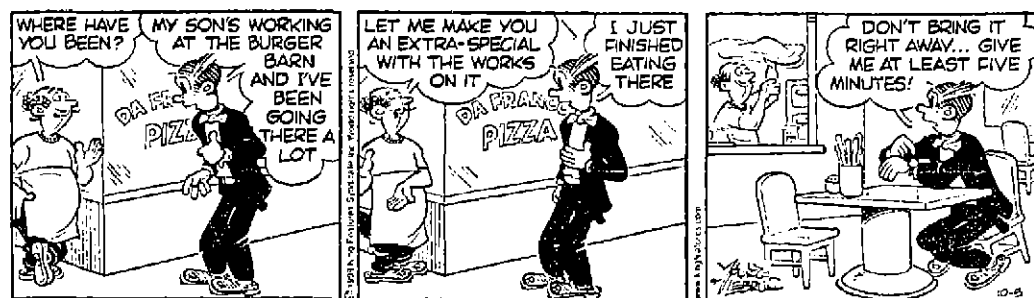


BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



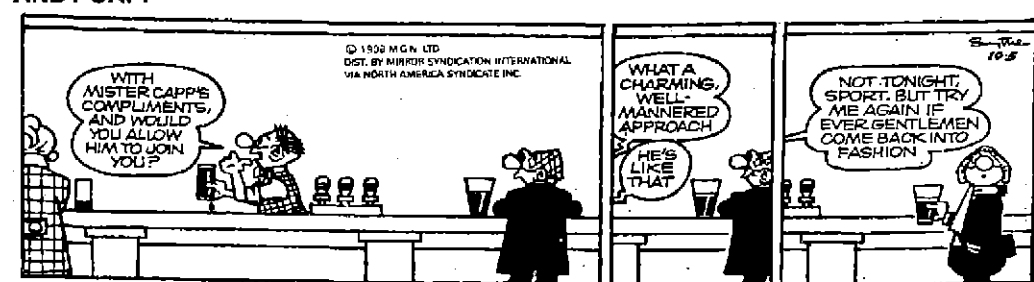
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



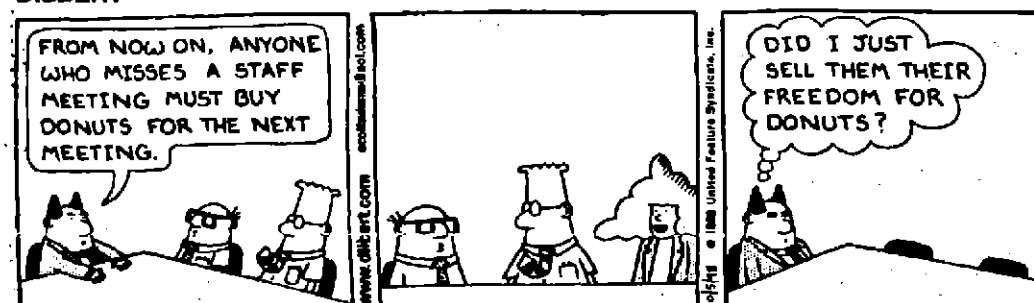
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



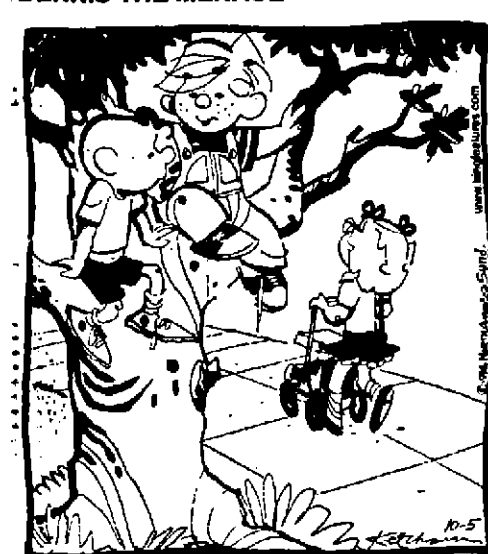
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



DILBERT



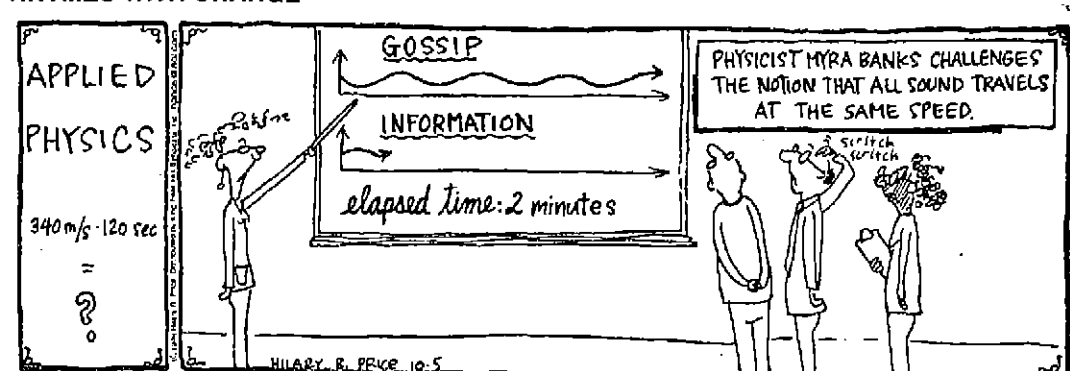
DENNIS THE MENACE



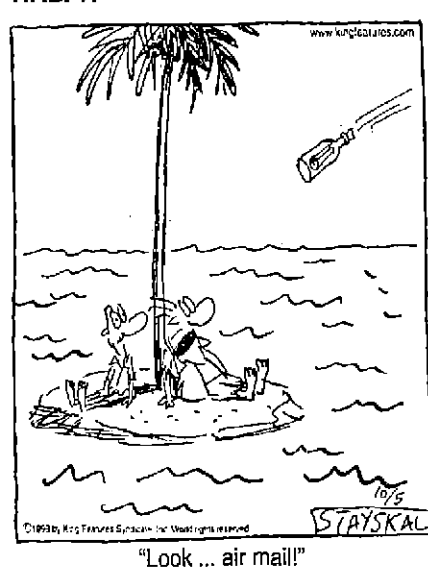
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

"Family Circus" cartoonist Bill Keane is 76. Singer-musician Steve Miller is 55. Actor Jeff Conaway is 48. Actress Karen Allen is 47. Rock singer Bob Geldof is 44. Rock singer-musician Dave Dederer (President of the United States of America) is 34. Rock musician Brian Mashburn (Save Ferris) is 23. Actress Kate Winslet is 23.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

APPLIED PHYSICS 340 m/s - 120 sec

GOSSIP INFORMATION elapsed time: 2 minutes

PHYSICIST MYRA BANKS CHALLENGES THE NOTION THAT ALL SOUND TRAVELS AT THE SAME SPEED.

WILLY R. PRICE 10-5

PAR SCORE 150-160 by JUDD

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 10-5

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Tuesday, Oct. 6, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You have the opportunity to do something wonderful for your future.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Become informed or face the consequences that may be unprepared can bring.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Make new friends, keep the old, and listen to their wisdom and good advice.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Catching up on deadlines and tying up loose ends should be your top priority, despite your desire to frolic and daydream.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Planning exciting events and social gatherings on company time will lure you away from pressing matters.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) A bit of dyspepsia might ruin your evening. Fresh veggies and fruits, grains and light fare will affect your entire outlook.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Close your eyes and give yourself over to something fantastic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A ringing in your ears might be distracting from your work, but the show must go on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Listen to your muse or she might go away for good.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Consider what you do for a living. Are there any repercussions to your line of work?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You're feeling awfully possessive, particularly about something that is not yours.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Communication steps into the limelight, and developing your skills will pay off.

— Francis Drake

WORD SLEUTH

Cities on the great lakes

WKHDAEXURRPMJGD

AXVMNKSQONKIFDA

XVTIQOEIMDJHOF C

EUCLIDRNNAYWTUR

PASWNELAOJHFNDB

RZXAPMLGTSVYOTR

QOMUREKELIHHRHF

DBSKVNEKIZYAOAW

VTREQTIUMONDITLG

TOLEDORAAHTULUD

KCIHFREWHDCCAZZ

Saturday's unlisted clue: CARTOONS

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Monday's unlisted clue hint: CAPITAL OF ONTARIO

Cleveland, Euclyd, Mentor, Superior
Cudahy, Gary, Milwaukee, Toledo
Duluth, Hamilton, Racine, Waukegan
Erie, Kenosha, Sarnia

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For solution, see Classified.

ACES ON BRIDGE

The Encyclopedia of Bridge defines an avoidance play as one "designed to prevent a particular opponent from gaining the lead." In today's example, South must execute an avoidance play against East. Because West's opening bid marks him with the club ace, South must prevent East from leading a club. West leads his heart king, and when East plays the 10, South must refuse the trick. If he doesn't make this avoidance play, East may later gain the lead with his heart nine, and the club shift will beat the game. After South refuses to win the first trick and West leads another heart to South's ace, where does South go from here? If he draws trumps, ruffs dummy's last heart and tries to endplay West in diamonds, it is a futile cause. East wins the third diamond, and the club shift beats the game. Even if West had Q-x-x in diamonds, surely he would jettison the queen to avoid the endplay. South's best plan is to save dummy's heart eight for a better shot at an endplay. After cashing two top trumps and the ace and king of diamonds, South leads dummy's heart eight and discards his losing diamond. West wins, but having no safe exit, he must give South his game-going trick. A heart lead offers a ruff and sluff, and a club lead gives South his king. What if West could lead a third diamond? No matter. South would ruff and enjoy a discard on dummy's 13th diamond.

— By Bobby Wolff, syndicated writer

NORTH 10-4-A
K J 8
A 4 2
K Q J 3
A Q 10

WEST
S 2
K Q J 7 6 3
10 5
A Q 10

EAST
A 4 3
10 9
Q J 8 7
J 9 7 5 3

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: West

The bidding:
West North East South
1 Pass Pass 2 Pass
Pass 2 Pass 2 Pass
Pass 3 Pass 4 Pass

Opening lead: Heart king

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0824

ACROSS

1 Put one's foot down
2 They sometimes accompany photos
3 Onetime Iranian chief
4 Harness racer
5 Answer an invitation
6 Mini's opposite
7 All-out response
8 Criticize, in 90's slang
9 Glimpsed
10 Messenger
11 Slalom curve
12 Country north of Chile
13 Topsy
14 Rich desserts and soap operas, say

34 "Heaven forbid!"
35 Hockey legend Bobby
36 "The World According to"
37 Director Jean-
38 Having hair like horses
39 Menagoric
40 Monastery titles
41 Aviation hero
42 Alex Trebek, e.g.
43 Jewelry and gold
44 Double, maybe
45 Sciences' partner
46 Strived (for)
47 Scottie's bark
48 "Mamma"
49 Time in history

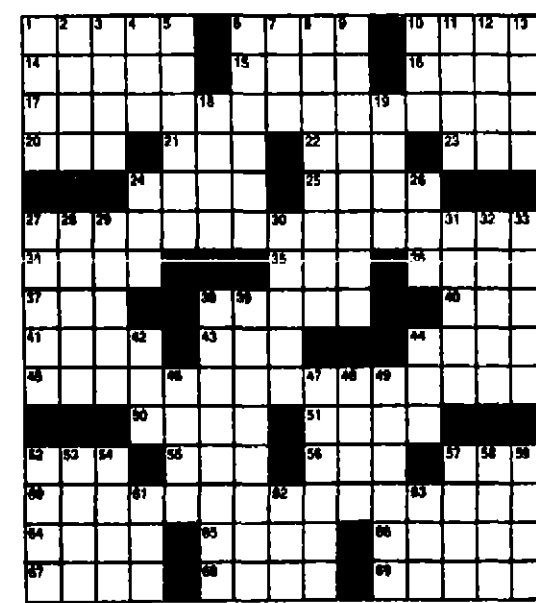
57 Hang on the clothesline
60 Absolutely confident
61 Do as directed
62 River deposit
63 Had title to
64 Treat lavishly
65 P.M. periods
66 Dame Rebecca and others

DOWN

1 Went like the dickens
2 Curbside call
3 Fall mos.
4 Mal de
5 Like some stations on a car radio
6 Concoct
7 Any doctrine
8 Rescuee's cry
9 Coronado was one
10 Dallas sch.
11 Tortoise's opponent
12 Chopping tools
13 Snake's warning
14 One of two English queens
15 Gives under pressure
16 Arafat's grp.
17 Warm welcome
18 Does a round of nine
19 Swahili for "freedom"
20 Like an old empire of 24-Across

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HIKERS ACIDROCK
HIDELET LAKEERIE
POTATO DIENIAL
SNO ELFIN TOOL
CTR SEIN PANSY
OCTET LOOSE
TAIS MANOR ORB
CROCODILEDUNDEE
HEN HEELS EDDA
GORDY GATE ALE
OPER AARON NEA
TELECAST DUMONT
ORATORIO ADDUCE
NEXTVEAN YESTER



20 Hermit
21 Gillette product
22 Uneven, as leaves
23 Card markings
24 Decimal part of a logarithm
25 Pretends
26 Music with a blend of folk and calypso
27 1963 Paul Newman film
28 Writer Bombeck
29 Turns inside out

30 Suffix with million
31 Endangered animal in Florida
32 Beginning
33 Hick
34 Guitar part
35 Actress Sothorn et al.

36 Skeptic's comment
37 Marge Schott's team
38 It takes in the sights
39 Decal: Abbr.
40 Amazement

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (\$55 per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.